

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 15 and 18 are the independent claims. Claim 18 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the November 4, 2002 Office Action, claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, 9-11, 13-15 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,537,175 to Kamaya et al. ("Kamaya") in view of U.S. Patent 4,560,261 to Ueda et al. ("Ueda").

The invention as recited in claim 1 is directed to producing a mirror image that is representative of a camera image to frame an object image in the camera image, the mirror being "moveably arranged at an angle to the camera."

In FIGs. 31 and 32, Kamaya discloses a two-way video communication system having a camera 1' disposed in fixed relation to a half mirror 10'. The camera 1' and half mirror 10' are mounted on top of a monitor 80. As shown in FIG. 32, a person watching the monitor may view another person whose image appears on the monitor. That other person may view another monitor 80 similarly equipped with a camera 1' and a half mirror 10', so each of the two participants can view the framing of her own image in the half mirror and simultaneously view the monitor image of the other participant.

As the Office Action, in item 4, concedes "Kamaya differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching the mirror movably arranged at an angle to the camera."

Ueda, as read by applicants, relates to a camera having a self photograph framing mirror 7 and configured to selectively photograph at a close-up taking distance or at a relatively longer portrait taking distance. To allow the user to accurately observe himself to take a desired photograph (col. 2, lines 8-13), the framing mirror 7 is disposed to not overlap the camera lens so that the framing mirror affords a complete image of the user. To correct for the parallax resulting from this non-overlapping configuration, Ueda tilts the framing mirror 7. Some of the disclosed Ueda embodiments incorporate a mechanism whereby the user can selectively move the framing mirror 7 into one position corresponding to a close-up taking distance or into another position corresponding to a portrait taking distance (col. 4, line 55 – col. 5, line 52).

In item 4, the Office Action suggests “it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kamaya in having the mirror moveably arranged at the angle to the camera, as per teaching of Ueda, in order to correct for the parallax involved when the framing mirror is viewed from the front of the camera.” The Office Action apparently suggests that motivation would have existed to modify Kamaya to replace the half mirror 10’ with the framing mirror 7 of Ueda. We traverse this suggestion.

In the Kamaya two-way communication scenario, the user is not posing for a photograph and only needs the framing mirror in order to frame his image for the other participant. Therefore, no problem arises if the lens placement in the center of the mirror obscures the center of the user’s image. There is thus no need to avoid overlapping the mirror with the camera lens. Avoiding the overlap by placing the mirror and lens side-

by-side, as in Ueda, would unnecessarily introduce a parallax problem and therefore force Kamaya to position the mirror to compensate for the parallax. Moreover, Kamaya does not need two different taking distances, such as the close-up and portrait taking distances of Ueda, because the user viewing the monitor 80 in Kamaya will typically stay at a single, comfortable viewing distance from the monitor 80. It would have been counterintuitive to go to the trouble and expense of offsetting Kamaya's mirror and attaching to it a Ueda mirror-moving mechanism. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to modify Kamaya in view of Ueda to produce a combination in which the mirror is "moveably arranged at an angle to the camera." Claim 1 is therefore believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least this reason.

Regarding claims 11 and 15, and claim 18 as amended, they likewise specify that the mirror is moveably arranged at an angle to the camera, and are likewise deemed to be patentable over the cited references.

As to claims 2, 4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-14 and 19-20, they depend from base claims 1, 11, 15 and 18, respectively, and are deemed to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamaya in view of Ueda and U.S. Patent 5,532,737 to Braun.

Braun is directed to a camera arrangement with a wide field of view, but does not disclose a mirror moveably arranged at an angle to the camera. Claim 3 depends from and therefore includes all the limitations of base claim 1. Braun cannot compensate for the deficiencies of Kamaya and Ueda.

Claims 5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamaya in view of Ueda and U.S. Patent 6,137,526 to Kakii.

Kakii, as read by applicant, is directed to an interactive system that matches lines of sight, but does not disclose a mirror moveably arranged at an angle to the camera. Claim 5 and 12 depend from base claims 1 and 11, respectfully. Kakii cannot compensate for the deficiencies of Kamaya and Ueda.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamaya in view of Ueda and U.S. Patent 6,079,862 to Kawashima et al. (“Kawashima”).

Kawashima, as read by applicant, is directed to automated tracking of a target, but does not disclose a mirror moveably arranged at an angle to the camera. Claim 8 depends from base claim 1, and Kawashima cannot compensate for the deficiencies of Kamaya and Ueda.

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kamaya in view of Ueda and U.S. Patent 5,943,603 to Parulski et al. (“Parulski”).

Parulski, as read by applicant, is directed to a camera with a programmable transmission capability, but does not disclose a mirror moveably arranged at an angle to the camera. Claims 16 and 17 depend from base claim 15, and Parulski cannot compensate for the deficiencies of Kamaya and Ueda.

None of the references of record, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the invention as recited in claims 1-20.

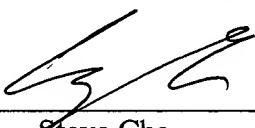
This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the below-named attorney to discuss them so that the application can issue without the need for a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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2/4/03


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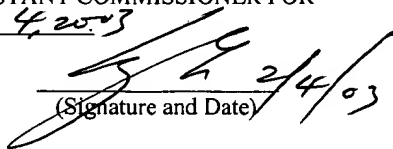
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

18. (Amended) A method of framing an image of an object within a camera image comprising the steps of: aligning a mirror at an angle to the camera so as to provide a mirror image that is representative of the camera image, and adjusting a position of the object in dependence upon the mirror image and thereby frame the image of the object in the camera image.